FAQs

Q: Is my command required to have a Command Language Program (CLP) and/or a CLP Manager (CLPM)?

A: If you answer 'yes' to either of the following questions, then yes, per OPNAVINST 5400.46, your command is required to have a CLP.

- Does your command have any *language-coded billets* (regardless of whether the billet incumbents possess foreign language proficiency)?
- Do you have any Sailors who are proficient in *any* foreign languages?

Q: What is the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT)?

A: The DLPT is the DoD standardized testing system for measuring an individual's proficiency in a foreign language. It consists of a battery of tests that measures the general ability of the tester to comprehend a spoken and written foreign language and to speak the language. The system includes the DLPT, normally consisting of a listening and reading test, and the oral proficiency interview (OPI) which measures speaking ability. DLPT and OPI scores are reported as skill levels on the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR).

Q: Why should I take the DLPT?

A: Formally recognized proficiency scores benefit the Sailor as well as the Navy. DLPT scores help the Navy match Sailors who can perform a mission with operational requirements involving foreign language. For the Sailor, DLPT scores may:

- qualify you for college credit recommendations from the American Council on Education (ACE). See your local Navy College Office for details.
- potentially qualify you for to receive Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) pay. Restrictions exist. See OPNAVINST 7220.7G for details.
- (enlisted) earn you a language-specific NEC which may help you stand out among peers. See NAVPERS 18068F (NEOCS Manual Volume II) for details.
- (officer) provide a formal/tested foreign language proficiency on your Officer Data Card. See NAVPERS 15839I (NOOCS Manual Volume II) for details.
- a formal measure of foreign language proficiency to enhance your resume for future civilian employment.

Q: Am I *required* to take the DLPT?

A: While it is in the best interests of the Navy and individual Sailors to take the DLPT, it is only *mandatory* for some. If you answer 'yes' to any of the following questions, *you are required to test annually*.

- Are you a Foreign Area Officer (FAO) or Cryptologic Technician Interpretive (CTI)?
- Do you have a foreign language NEC? You are required to test in *each language* for which you have an NEC.
- Do you receive FLPB?

Q: How often am I required to retest?

A: Current policy requires *annual* testing to recertify proficiency.

Q: What is the Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB)?

A: Because of the difficulty, length, and costs involved in foreign language training, the DLAB is used to screen personnel for their *ability to learn* a foreign language. The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) establishes minimum DLAB scores required prior to attendance in specific language courses of instruction. For this reason, DLAB testing is required prior to acceptance into the FAO and CTI communities. A minimum DLAB score may also be required when applying for special program assignments such as the Personnel Exchange Program (PEP) which may include foreign language training while enroute to assignment.

Q: How often can I take the DLAB and/or DLPT?

A: A minimum of six months is required between DLAB tests. Testing policy for DLPTs, including frequency and waivers, is provided in OPNAVINST 5200.37. For specific questions, contact OPNAV N13F1 (ALTN_N13F1@navy.mil).

Q: How do I update the foreign language ability information in my NSIPS record or in my Officer Data Card (ODC)?

A: *Tested* language proficiency data is automatically sent to the NSIPS database and to the officer and enlisted personnel databases. Updates to *self-assessed* language proficiency data may be done through your command pass liaison representative (PLR) or local PSD via NSIPS. If updates to NSIPS are not auto-populated to the ODC, officers needing to update language data in their ODC should contact the NSIPS helpdesk at 1-(877) 589-5991 (DSN: 739) or email NSIPSHELPDESK@navy.mil and specify that the requested update is for the ODC.